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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor @ Brent Manning. Director

Office of Realty & Environmental Planning

Facsimile Cover Letter

Fax Number (217) 557-0728

NAME: TED PRES COTT	
LOCATION: 782 - 3258	
FROM: DEAWNA GLOSSER	
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MEMORANDUM

To:

Ted Prescott

From:

Deanna Glosser

Date:

March 14, 2000

Re:

Information Request for at Site in Sauget

St. Clair County

T2N, R10W, Section 33 & T2N, R10W, Sections 27 & 28

This is in reference to the above request for natural resource and recreational information which you sent on March 7, 2000. You requested information on sensitive environments in and around the sites you delineated on a topographic map, as well as fisheries and recreational usage along the Mississippi River. This information is for your Site Assessment Program which examines threats to CERCLIS sites.

In the short time we have had, I can provide two sets of information, one is the information in the Natural Heritage Database, which includes endangered and threatened species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) sites, and dedicated Nature Preserves. The second is the list of intolerant fish species that have been documented to occur in the Mississippi River.

Within the general Sauget area, the **Bald Eagle** is documented as nesting in two locations, one along the river south of the sites you identified, and the second to the southeast. Given the range of these species and the feeding habitats, there is a strong likelihood that this species could feed anywhere along the Mississippi River. The **Black-crowned Night Heron**, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, are documented as nesting at a significant rookery located to the east of Sauget in Alorten. These birds are all known to fly considerable distances from their nesting sites to forage. Any wetland or open water system within in excess of 10 miles of their nests could serve as a feeding area. Finally, the Common Moorhen has nested a short distance to the southeast. All locations are indicated on the enclosed map.

There is not abundant site specific natural resource information available for this area, however, I can provide the list of intolerant fish species that have been documented as occurring in the Mississippi River. The intolerant fish species list is contained in the Biological Stream Characterization (BSC): Biological Assessment of Illinois Stream Quality through 1993, which was written by staff from IDNR and IEPA. The survey data was extracted from the Biologically Significant Illinois Streams. An Evaluation of the Streams of Illinois Based on Aquatic Biodiversity by the Natural History Survey.

Erimystax x-punctatus WL Notropis nubilus Notropis volucellus Page 2 March 14, 2000

Opsopoeodus emiliae
Cyprinella spiloptera
Cyprinella whipplei
Pimephales vigilax
Rhinichthys atratulus
Capriodes velifer
Cycleptus elongatus
Moxostoma anisurum
Moxostoma macrolepidotum
Noturus flavus
Percina phoxocephala

I am still continuing to explore other resource issues, such as fisheries and recreational usages along the river and will send this information as soon as anything is available. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 785-5500.

Cc Steve Davis, IDNR





George H. Ryan, Governor

Brent Manning, Director

Office of Realty & Environmental Planning

Facsimile Cover Letter

Fax Number (217) 557-0728

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FAXED

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To: Ted Prescott

From Deanna Glosser

Date March 15, 2000

Re: Information Request for at Site in Sauget - Follow up

St. Clair County

T2N, R10W, Section 33 & T2N, R10W, Sections 27 & 28

I faxed you a memo this morning with listed endangered and threatened and intolerant fish species information for the areas you had identified on a map, and said I would provide additional information if available. I spoke to our field biologist this afternoon and she provided the following information:

Peregrine Falcon - the Peregrine Falcon is documented as nesting at two bridges to the north of this area, the I-270 and the McKinley bridges. There is a bridge immediately north of the Sauget site, so a possibility exists that this species could nest there at some time in the future.

Wetland Birds - I had identified birds that were documented as nesting in the Sauget area. There are other wetland -dependent bird species that could be nesting here as well, based on occurrences in similar habitat in the general area. Even if they do not nest in the area, they would likely be using the wetland as feeding areas. These include:

Pied-billed Grebe

Least Bitterns

American Bitterns

Yellow-headed Blackbirds (old record from Horseshoe Lake)

White Pelicans (migratory only)

Gossy Ibis (migratory only)

Fish - the Pallid sturgeon, federally and state listed as endangered, occurs in the Mississippi River, although not documented immediately adjacent to the Sauget site.

Fishing/Recreation - I have no documented evidence that people fish or recreate in this area, although the nearby bridge is closed to traffic and the bank is suitable for fishing. Our field staff said that it is likely that the area is fished but she has not actually seen people do so.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 785-5500.

Cc Steve Davis